

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I was detained this afternoon. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall 581 (On passage—H.R. 2862)—“aye”; rollcall 582 (On passage—S. 1894)—“aye”; rollcall 583 (On Agreeing to the Scott #9 Amendment)—“nay”; rollcall 584 (On Motion to Recommit with Instructions—H.R. 1751)—“nay”; and rollcall 585 (On Passage—H.R. 1751)—“aye.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, though I was absent on Wednesday, November 9, 2005, for medical reasons, I wish to have my intended votes recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for the following votes: Rollcall vote 577 on H. Res. 539—“aye”; rollcall vote 578 on H. Res. 538—“aye”; rollcall vote 579 on H. Res. 540—“aye”; rollcall vote 580 on the Adoption of Conference Report on H.R. 2419—“nay”; rollcall vote 581 on the Adoption of Conference Report on H.R. 2862—“aye”; rollcall vote 582 on S. 1894—“aye”; rollcall vote 583 on Amendment numbered 3 in House Report 109–279—“nay”; rollcall vote 585 on H.R. 1751—“aye.”

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, do the House rules not require that the proponent of an unsuccessful motion to recommit, who has stated that he or she is opposed to the bill in its present form, vote against the bill on final passage?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). A Member must state his opposition to the bill in order to qualify to offer a motion to recommit.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, further parliamentary inquiry. I noticed that the proponent of the motion to recommit, who stated his opposition, voted in favor of the bill after the motion to recommit was rejected by the House.

Is that not in violation of the rules?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The positive rule is satisfied when the gentleman states his opposition to the bill in qualifying to be recognized to offer the motion.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, further parliamentary inquiry. If the gentleman states his opposition to the bill and then does not follow up his statement, are not the rules violated or the House misled?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair accepts the gentleman's statement as final, but it does not bind his vote on passage as a matter of positive rule.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 1751, SECURE ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND COURT PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of the bill, H.R. 1751, the

Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections and conforming changes to the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

SAYING FAREWELL TO HOUSE PARLIAMENTARIAN MUFTIAH MCCARTIN

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that all of us as Members of this great institution owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to our Parliamentarian and his staff of Parliamentarians who do a phenomenal job for us.

One of the very best examples of success from those Parliamentarians who work daily to ensure the orderly operation of this great institution is our friend, Muftiah McCartin.

After nearly three decades in the Office of the Parliamentarian, Muftiah is retiring to spend more time with her family. As anyone who has worked with Muftiah can attest, speaking with her is like having a double espresso. Her enthusiasm for her job is infectious, and there is no doubt that we will sorely miss her, for after working here 30 years, she is retiring.

Muftiah has worked in the House longer than most Members. This year I marked my 25th year of service in this institution, and she was working here 5 years before I arrived. Over the course of those three decades, she has served under six Speakers and during the tenure of six Presidents. Most importantly, she has worked for three Parliamentarians of the House.

Mr. Speaker, throughout her career in this institution, Muftiah has strived for personal and professional excellence; and she, without a doubt, achieved both. After earning her bachelor's degree and law degree while working in the office as a clerk, Muftiah became the first woman to be appointed a Parliamentarian in January, 1991.

In my position chairing the House Rules Committee, we have a special bond with Muftiah. She has worked very closely with the staff members of the Rules Committee in drafting many of the rules for considering legislation on the floor. As Members know, at this moment, we are in the process of dealing with something of a challenge as we put together the manager's amendment for the measure that we will be passing out of this House tomorrow.

She also served as the long-time editor of the House Rules and Manual. I have my appropriate prop right here for those who have not seen that. And she edited two editions of House Practice. I know she takes great pride in both the contents and the craftsmanship of these beautiful, leather-bound volumes that each of us has in our office.

Muftiah has always had a passion for service and an endearment for this institution and a commitment to our great democracy. Over many years and many late nights, she has been essential to the work of the House. Her unvarnished advice has helped countless bills receive a proper hearing on the floor. We were very lucky to have her. Though they may not have known her name, the American people have been very, very fortunate to have had Muftiah McCartin working on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all of the Members and the staff Muftiah so ably served over these past 30 years, I would like to offer my sincere thanks and very best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement to Muftiah.

Congratulations, Muftiah.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DREIER. I yield to my very good friend from Peoria, Illinois.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Rules Committee for taking time this evening to honor Muftiah, because as some Members know, when we came here in 1994, which is the class I was elected to, not one of us had ever really served as Speaker pro tem because we had been out of the majority for 40 years. For those of us who have had the privilege of acting as Speaker pro tem, we have relied almost exclusively on the Parliamentarians to give us good advice, to share with us the importance of chairing the House in a way that dignifies this body, by following the rules, doing it in a fair and bipartisan way; and for the kind of opportunity that I think Muftiah has provided to those of us who have had this privilege, we are very, very grateful to her.

As one who was a former staffer of 17 years for two previous Members, one who served as the longest-serving Republican leader, Bob Michel, in the minority we relied a great deal on the Parliamentarians to help guide us through meeting the challenges of trying to get things done as a minority party. Muftiah was certainly a part of that team that really helped us do that.

Then coming into the majority party and serving with great privilege and honor as Speaker pro tem, I can tell you that Muftiah was extraordinary in her ability to help us get through some very, very important legislation not only for those of us in the majority party, but for the country. We could not have done it without her great assistance and great knowledge.

She is an extraordinary person, outside of the work she does here in the House and aiding all of us who sit in the Chair, but in her own personal life, as the mother of four children, having a spouse, and having to work long hours. As one who has served here as a staffer, I can tell you that the staff does not get enough credit for the good work that goes on around here in helping us do the work that we do.

In particular, the Parliamentarians do an extraordinary job in making sure that things are done correctly, by the book, and Muftiah has certainly been a part of a great team and will be greatly missed.

Muftiah, thank you for the wonderful, wonderful, good, solid advice and the professional manner with which you have distinguished yourself in this House of Representatives. I know it is very difficult to walk away.

Mr. Speaker, we owe her a great deal for what she has done for those of us who have had the privilege of presiding and for her great advice.

Good luck and Godspeed. We are very grateful to you.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I would say to my friend that so many of us have seen the gentleman from Illinois, in an extraordinarily able manner, preside over this institution. The word is now out that it is not RAY LAHOOD who is presiding so ably over this great institution, it is Muftiah McCartin who is, in fact, making that happen.

When it comes to appreciation, the gentleman is absolutely right, Mr. Speaker, we do not express enough appreciation to our staff.

Muftiah, I will say to you, you saw what RAY LAHOOD did to ensure that he was adequately appreciated. He went from serving as a staff member to becoming a Member of Congress. I don't want to necessarily recommend that to you as you head into retirement, but if you do want to follow the LaHood model, it is certainly something you might consider.

Let me say again, congratulations to Muftiah for her phenomenal service. I know on behalf of Speaker HASTERT, the House leadership, and all the Members of this institution on both sides of the aisle, we are very, very honored to have had you serve here so ably.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the many years of service of House parliamentarian, Muftiah McCartin, who completes her excellent work in this body later this week.

Ms. McCartin joined the Parliamentarian's office in 1976, and has served during the tenure of six Speakers of the House, and six Presidents.

In 1991, she became the first woman to be appointed a Parliamentarian. As someone who understands the importance of breaking glass ceilings, I am particularly honored to acknowledge her outstanding work.

Muftiah has always had a wonderful smile and a warm demeanor on the House floor. As we know, it can get pretty heated in debate and very partisan.

But Muftiah has always been a calm and rational presence to Members of both sides of the aisle and their staff who seek parliamentary advice. She has brought a keen mind, and a clear understanding of House rules that has served this institution very well.

In addition to the long, grueling hours that she has spent on the House floor, Muftiah McCartin has managed to raise four wonderful children: Marissa, Elaine, Sandra, and Luke. I'm sure she will welcome spending the extra time with her family and her husband, Terry.

Muftiah, today we thank you for your service to this great institution and wish you the very best. You have been a tremendous asset to the work that we do every day. And we will miss you.

Thank you again for your many years of commitment toward making this House of Representatives a better place.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the 1-minute speech I just offered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

SAYING FAREWELL TO MUFTIAH MCCARTIN

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the many years of service of House Parliamentarian Muftiah McCartin, who completes her excellent work in this body later this week. Ms. McCartin joined the Parliamentarian's Office in 1976, and has served during the tenure of six Speakers and six Presidents. In 1991, she became the first woman to be appointed a Parliamentarian.

The minority leader, Ms. PELOSI, is someone who understands the importance of breaking glass ceilings. She had hoped to be here personally to congratulate Muftiah on her outstanding work and her dedication over the many years.

She goes on to say Muftiah always had such a wonderful smile and warm demeanor on the House floor, which I might comment often lacks smiles and warm demeanors. Well, it is warm; sometimes heated. As we know, it can get heated in debate and very partisan, but she has always been a calm and rational presence to Members on both sides of the aisle and their staff who seek parliamentary advice. She brought a keen mind and a clear understanding of House rules that have served this institution very well.

In addition to the long, grueling hours she has spent on the House floor, she has managed to raise four wonderful children: Marissa, Elaine, Sandra, and Luke, one of whom has the great, good sense to have moved to my congressional district. That is my district, not Ms. PELOSI's. I am sure she will welcome spending the extra time with her family and her husband, Terry.

Muftiah, today we thank you for your service to this great institution and wish you the very best. You have been a tremendous asset to the work we do every day, and we will miss you. Thank you again for your many years of commitment toward making the House of Representatives a better place.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DEFAZIO. I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I find it a great irony and some goodness that I can get some time from my friend.

I was sitting in my office and I did not know, frankly, that Muftiah was old enough to retire, take on another job, or leave the nest here, or whatever she is doing, but as somebody who has personally benefited from her expertise and wisdom, as I have had the honor to sit in the Chair, I can say we could not have laymen go up there and hold the gavel without somebody like Muftiah at our right arm telling us sometimes what to say and what not to say. I am sure she never would sit down when I had the gavel because she was nervous something would go awry.

The other thing that is important, when school kids and visitors come to the House Chamber, I often point to the picture of George Washington and the fact that you can still see the sword painted out of his hand. I explain to school kids the reason the sword was painted out of his hand in his portrait in the House Chamber is that we philosophically believe that our debate here, our spirited debate, sometimes our acrimonious debate, sometimes our bitter debate, is still better than the alternative, and that alternative is civil war or civil disruption, as we see around the world.

□ 1845

I believe that all of our Parliamentarians aid that in that sometimes we get out of line, Democrats or Republicans, in the spirit of the moment, in the emotion of the moment, and we say something that we regret saying; and it is at that time when all eyes turn to a nonpartisan, objective third party who can say everybody sit down, a little calmness here, let us get through this maze of parliamentary mystery and then get back on the course of civil discussion.

I want to say, Muftiah, thank you for being part of that team and thank you for everything that you are doing. Your job is a profound one, and it is one that should be studied in every civics class in every school at every level of education in America.

And I want to say to my friend from the west coast who does not always vote green when I vote red and vice versa, we always agree that this is the place where we can come and have good, open debate thanks to people like Muftiah and the Parliamentarians.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, that is correct. I only regret that she trained him too well.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FORTENBERRY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the